



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

March 16, 2007

Tracey Piccone, P.E.
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

Dear Ms. Piccone:

This correspondence acknowledges receipt of the South Florida Water Management District's (District) request on March 01, 2007, to revise the *Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals* (Long-Term Plan). The Department appreciates the District's ongoing efforts to implement the adaptive implementation approach envisioned in the Long-Term Plan, which will greatly enhance Florida's efforts to restore and protect the Everglades ecosystem.

The proposed revisions include:

- 1) Draining Cells 2B and 4 of Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West (STA-1W) to remove approximately 100,000 cubic yards of floc/accrued material, re-plant with rice, and re-flood. This process will aid in sediment stabilization and in turn promote favorable conditions for SAV grow-in. Subsequent to performing the sediment stabilization techniques the cells will be inoculated with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Earlier efforts to promote SAV growth in Cell 2B and 4 without the aforementioned sediment stabilization techniques were unsuccessful. Poor SAV grow-in during earlier efforts were attributed to extremely loose sediment, referred to as floc, which was easily re-suspended in the water column and was preventing light penetration needed for the vegetation to survive. The proposed maintenance activities shall include:
 - a) Construction and installation of bulkheads in the G-249A-H culverts to maintain water levels and vegetation in Cell 2A.
 - b) Operation of the G-307 and G-309 outflow structures to allow for the discharge of an estimated 400- 500 acre-feet of water from Cells 2B and 4 into the Discharge Canal.

Ms. Tracey Piccone

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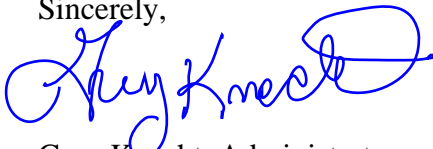
- c) Use of temporary pumps to discharge water from the STA Discharge Canal to the adjacent landowner's farm canal. To maintain water levels in Cells 2B and 4 additional pumping may also be necessary throughout the completion of the earthwork and rice planting.
- d) Rice will be mechanically planted in drained Cells.
- e) Upon completion of rice planting, bulkheads in the Cell 2 levee will be removed to hydrate Cells 2B and 4. If no water is available in the upstream basin, temporary pumps can be used to hydrate Cells with water from the Discharge Canal.

The proposed revisions were discussed at the March 01, 2007, Long-Term Plan Communications Meeting. Department staff have been notified of these revisions and will incorporate any necessary modifications into the permits. In cases where a permit modification request is required, Department staff will work closely with District staff to ensure that such requests are submitted consistent with the proposed revisions.

The Department acknowledges that the proposed revisions are consistent with the adaptive implementation process envisioned under the Everglades Forever Act (Section 373.4592, Florida Statutes) and hereby authorizes the revisions to the Long-Term Plan. Please note that a description of these revisions must be included in the 2008 South Florida Environmental Report in lieu of the Everglades Consolidated Report, as required by Section 1.10.4 of the Long-Term Plan.

If you have questions regarding this approval, please direct them to Frank Nearhoof at (850) 245-8420 or Suncom 205-8420.

Sincerely,



Greg Knecht, Administrator
Water Quality Standards & Special
Project Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

ELECTRONIC COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Frank L. Nearhoof, FDEP